

The government has looked at absolutely every department and every issue, and everyone is going to have to contribute to get our deficit and our debt down.

The measures that we have taken within this Bill C-32 are in keeping with our agenda and will help us contain the deficit.

• (1630)

If we do not act now, we will not have the money to provide social services in the future. As I said, I know it is extremely difficult.

I know that some of my colleagues have discussed the numbers on the deficit and the debt. Currently the debt is sitting at \$400 billion. This is certainly a big number, \$400 billion which requires \$43 billion in this year's expenditures just to service the debt.

When we came into office, and this is very interesting, the debt was sitting just at the \$200 billion level and it has grown. Yes, it has doubled. But the growth is due to servicing the debt, Mr. Speaker, and certainly it is not due from other areas.

What I really want to talk about is that we have a problem. Why can we not all work on this together? The thing I have heard from my colleagues on the other side is discussing interest rates, the high interest rates, the high value of the Canadian dollar. Yes, they are high. In order to get those down, we flat have to cut our expenditures and get our deficit and debt down. This will also help put us in a more competitive position so that we can trade. Indeed, Canada is the most trade dependent nation in the western industrialized world. We have to trade to exist.

We hear people talk out of one side of their mouth saying get the dollar down, get interest rates down, and yet continue spending—and maybe you can help me, Mr. Speaker—but I have not heard anyone suggest a cut. They are asking today for us to withdraw the bill, which we have no intention of doing, for more money for health and welfare. It is a major department, but already the department spends 55, 56, 57 per cent of our budget. As some of my colleagues have stated, about \$36 billion, \$37 billion goes into the CAP transfer programs in this fiscal year.

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We have to spend our money more wisely, spend it better, and we have to stop the treadmill from gaining so much speed. I have heard you ask for money for National Health and Welfare. I have heard money for science and technology, which I support. We need more science and technology, research and development. I have heard you ask for more money for agriculture. We would not eat. Our farmers, our agriculture people all across Canada have problems with regard to the GATT, the regulations and the subsidies that the European and the United States are applying to the export market on agriculture.

I have heard people ask for money in the transportation area with regard to runways as well as new terminals. Yes, we need new runways in certain areas across this country. I have heard people talk about housing. Housing is extremely important. Through CMHC, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, we assist about 40 per cent of the homeowners within Canada and we would like to assist more.

These are all worth-while valuable areas, but we are not going to be able to help anyone unless we are able to get our deficit down and our debt removed. As part of this effort, this bill addresses capping at 5 per cent the Canada Assistance Plan payments to the three better off provinces, Ontario, B.C. and Alberta. I am indeed from the province of Alberta, and it is hard. But we all have to get this under control.

Now, 35 cents of every dollar the federal government gets goes to service the debt. We cannot apply it against any programs. We cannot utilize it for the increase of our standard of living, increase of hospital care or educational institutions. No, it must go to service the debt.

With regard to Ontario, it carries carry about a \$48 billion debt that is to be reached in the year 1991-92. It requires 12 cents out of every dollar to service the debt. In the province of B.C. the debt this particular year is going to be about \$615 million and four cents of every dollar goes to service it. In the province I come from, eight cents of every dollar we collect goes to service the debt.

The constraints, or restraints, in the province facing the federal government are major in comparison. We all have to help. We all have to participate. It is everybody's problem. We will certainly maintain our fiscal restraint and work toward the lowering of the deficit, which will